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**THE PLUMAS COUNTY AND ALMANOR BASIN FIRE SAFE COUNCILS  
LAUNCH WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK, MAY 9-15**

*It's a Clear Choice: Council Urges Homeowners, Communities  
to Get Ready for Fire Season, Become Fire Safe*

**[INSERT NAME OF CITY], CALIF. (May 9, 2004)**— Even as Southern California continues to recover from last fall's firestorms, the Plumas County and Almanor Basin Fire Safe Councils urge homeowners to get ready for fire season again when it kicks off Wildfire Awareness Week today. May 9-15, Wildfire Awareness Week is an annual campaign to remind people to take steps to reduce the risk of wildfire damage and to act in a fire safe manner. The theme of this year's campaign, in partnership with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection and US Forest Service is, "It's a Clear Choice."

"Resident's of Plumas and Lassen Counties have a clear choice: Be fire safe. This means clearing defensible space to give firefighters a safe zone to fight fires," said Mike De Lasaux, Plumas County Council Chair.

Defensible space is a minimum 30-foot clearance of flammable plants from around a structure. This does not mean a ring of bare dirt, but includes a fire resistant landscape. Homeowners can assess their home's defensibility by using the homeowner's

checklist at [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org) or the Californian Fire Safe Council's website at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

Council projects include: 1) hazardous fuel reduction projects across the County and around the Basin at different locations; 2) creating defensible space for elderly and disabled citizens, 3) providing educational information and Council coordination activities, 4) a countywide wildland fuel assessment and strategy plan, and 5) development of a countywide wildland fire plan.

Mike De Lasaux of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and Dale Knutsen of the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council, encourage residents to join to identify and lessen community wildfire hazards; to install and maintain fire resistant landscaping; and to build or remodel with fire resistant materials.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, which share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires.. The mission of the Fire Safe Council is: ***“To reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire through pre-fire activities.”*** Everyone in Plumas County is welcome to become a member of the Council. The Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9AM at the Quincy Fire Hall.

For more information about making your home safer and giving your firefighters a fighting chance please visit the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's website [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org), the West Almanor Fire Department's website at [www.citlink.net/~westalmanorfd](http://www.citlink.net/~westalmanorfd) , or the California Fire Safe Council website at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).